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CW

24 March 1988

Summary of Intelligence Reporting on CW Use at Halabja, Iraq
16 March 1988

Evidence on CW use in the fighting near Halabja in northeastern Iraq is ambiguous and complicated by conflicting propaganda claims on both sides. It is clear, however, that Iran and Iraq both have used chemical weapons in the battle, and are likely to continue. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From public television it is clear that mustard casualties and probably a quick acting cyanide agent were used. Most probably the cyanide type agent is cyanogen chloride (CK), not hydrogen cyanide (HCN), since HCN is lighter than air and would not have killed personnel in cellars and wells. A nerve agent could have been involved, [REDACTED] no signs of the expected violent death and frothing at the mouth which would have been expected from a nerve agent. [REDACTED]

To this time, the IC has been of the opinion that Iraq possesses nerve agents, mustard and riot control agents. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]